



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

November 13, 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

FROM: Robert Raben *RR*
Assistant Attorney General

SUBJECT: Weekly Report for November 13, 2000 - November 17, 2000

The House returns from recess today; the Senate returns on November 14.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Wen Ho Lee: Draft responses to questions for the record from Senator Leahy, in follow up of the September 26 and 27 hearings, are being prepared by CRM. A draft response to the Intelligence Committees and the Senate Judiciary Committee on conditions of confinement is being finalized. Responses to document requests for sealed records and deliberative materials are being deferred until after conclusion of the debrief; Committee staff have been informed of this. On November 8, we provided to the Committees copies of transcripts for the open portions of the August detention hearings and some docket items that may have been omitted inadvertently from earlier document productions. The Department of Energy is separately responding to document requests from the Senate Judiciary Committee and coordinating document production with the Department. Senator Specter's staff have suggested there may be additional hearings in November and December but nothing firm has been announced. (Walter)

CJS Immigration Provisions: OLA, INS and ODAG continue to work with the White House and Democratic Members of Congress to push for the inclusion of the Latino and Immigrant Fairness Act (LIFA) in the CJS appropriations bill. LIFA does three things: 1) grants the ability to apply for permanent residence to those Central Americans, Haitians and Liberians left out of NACARA; 2) changes the "registry date" to 1986, thereby allowing anyone in the U.S. by 1986 to apply for permanent residence; and 3) restores 245(i) relief. (First)

Deutch Investigation: The Senate Intelligence Committee sent over its draft report on John Deutch and requested that the Department inform them of classified or law enforcement sensitive information that it may contain before the Committee makes the report public. CRM is currently reviewing the draft report. The Committee has granted our request for an extension of their November 13 response deadline with the understanding the Department will respond within the week. (Walter)

Telecom: The DeWine/Kohl telecom merger bill [S. 467], which the Department and FBI oppose because it does not provide adequate protections for law enforcement and national

security concerns, is among the measures that could be attached to an appropriations or omnibus bill. OMB and appropriations staff have been alerted to the Department's objections and we are monitoring the bill's status. (Walter)

Leak prosecutions: In the wake of the President's veto of the Intelligence Authorization bill, we are monitoring how the Hill will respond. Senator Specter's staff say that at a minimum they will try to attach the FISA-related parts of the bill to an appropriations or omnibus package before sine die adjournment. Senate Intelligence staff indicate that they are working with the House Intelligence Committee staff to strip the leak provision out of the bill and to pass the remaining provisions again in the House and Senate before adjournment. (Walter)

Bankruptcy: On November 1, Senator Lott brought a cloture vote on bankruptcy reform legislation to the floor. The motion failed to achieve the necessary 60 votes, largely due to Senators who were out of town and could not cast their vote. We do not yet know whether Senator Lott will resubmit the motion when the Senate reconvenes on November 14. The President is expected to veto the legislation. (Wilson)

GAO Review of Offices of Professional Responsibility: Senator Thurmond, as Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Criminal Justice Oversight, has asked the General Accounting Office to conduct a review of the operations and policies in the Offices of Professional Responsibility (OPR) at both the FBI and Main Justice. The request is focused on OPR activities pertaining to a pending criminal investigation in Boston and we are working with the Senator's staff and U.S. Attorney Donald Stern to consider how this oversight inquiry could proceed without interfering with the pending criminal matter. (Burton)

Immigration: On November 14, INS, OLA, FBI and JMD are scheduled to brief the House Government Reform Committee's Subcommittee on National Security, Veterans Affairs and International Relations (Shays, Chair) regarding the IDENT/IAFIS database merger. The Department of State will also be in attendance. (First)